

IN THE DRAWINGS

Please amend the drawings as follows:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figures 4 and 8. These sheets replace the original sheets including Figures 4 and 8.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets.

REMARKS

Introduction

Claims 1-22 are pending in the present application, of which claims 1-8 have been withdrawn from consideration. In the above amendments, claims 9-13, 15-17, 19, and 20 have been amended; and claims 21 and 22 have been added. Claims 9, 13, 15, 17, 21, and 22 are the independent claims of the application that have not been withdrawn from consideration.

In the Final Office Action mailed on November 15, 2005, the Examiner objected to the drawings. The Examiner further objected to claims 10, 11, and 15-20. Claims 9-14, 19, and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Finally, claims 15-18 were allowed, subject to the objection.

Applicants respectfully respond to this Office Action.

Drawing and Specification

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner objected to the drawings, noting a mistyped word “trasmit” in box 402 of Figure 4. Figure 4 has been amended to spell properly the word “transmit.” The Examiner further noted that “the data rate decision node” recited in some claims is not shown in the Figures, requiring this feature to be shown or canceled from the claims. Accordingly, a data rate decision node 734 has been added to Figure 8. The specification has been amended by inserting a reference to the data rate decision node 734. Support for the amendment may be found, for example, in claim 16, as originally filed.

Applicants submit that the amendments to the Specification and the Figures do not make any substantive changes or introduce any new matter, and have been made in accordance with the Examiner’s requirements. Therefore, approval and entry of the above amendments to the specification and drawings are respectfully requested.

Allowed Claims

Applicants gratefully acknowledge allowance of claims 15-18.

Claim Objections

Claims 10-12, 15-17, 19, and 20 have been amended by replacing the term “C/I” with the term “carrier-to-interference ratio,” as required by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully submit that these amendments overcome the claim objections.

Section 112 Rejections

In rejecting claims 9-14, 19, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, the Final Office Action asserted that the specification does not provide support for the limitations added in response to the previous Office action. The claims have been amended to refer to first and second pluralities of “time slot occurrences.” Support for “time slot occurrences” may be found in the specification, for example, in the paragraph on page 31, line 22, through page 32, line 4, which describes a continuous equalization process. The equalization process proceeds from where the process ended during the previous corresponding time slot. At the end of a time slot, the coefficient values are stored for the next occurrence of the time slot. On the next occurrence of the time slot, the stored values are used to begin iterations of the equalizer. As described in that paragraph, each time slot is treated similarly. Note also Figure 7 (top graph), and references to time slots as cycling and repeating sequentially throughout the equalizer description in the specification, for example, at page 25, lines 6-9 and 16-20; at page 26, lines 3-6; and at page 27, lines 15-29.

Applicants respectfully submit that at least for this reason claims 9-14, 19, and 20 meet the requirements of section 112, first paragraph, and are allowable.

New Claims

New claims 21 and 22 should be allowable because the references of record do not disclose or suggest a combination of elements as recited in these claims. In particular, the references of record do not disclose or suggest an equalizer with different tap coefficient values for different time slots, each time slot having a plurality of occurrences, the occurrences of the different time slots alternating in time and the equalization process being carried out continuously for each time slot, from occurrence to occurrence of the time slot.

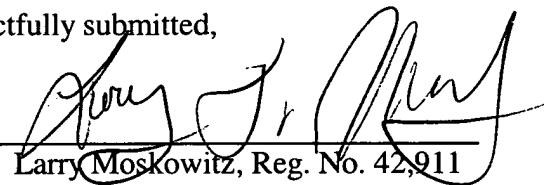
REQUEST FOR ALLOWANCE

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that all pending claims in the application are patentable. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of this application are earnestly solicited. Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

Dated: 2/15/2006

Respectfully submitted,

By: _____


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